

**PROJECTED WORKS.**—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 1st May, for repewing, &c., Bridgewater Church (with plans and drawings); by March 5th, for an addition, alteration, &c., at a shop in Caistor, Lincolnshire; also for a shop front with mahogany sashes and plate glass; by 24th, for the erection of a new aisle, &c., for Chiselhurst Church, Kent; by 12th, for the erection of the new workhouse for the Fulham Union; by 1st, for the erection of certain almshouses at Hereford; by 25th inst., for rebuilding the parish church at Birch, Essex; and, by 2nd March, for lighting the public lamps in the Grosvenor-place district with gas for five years or more.

**LITERARY INSTITUTIONS AND TAXES.**—The claim of the Greenwich Scientific Society to have their building exempted from taxes has been rejected by Baron Alderson, Anti-corn-law and other meetings having been held in it.

**CHELSEA IMPROVEMENT ACT.—RATING.**—Mr. Bult, of Chelsea, having declined to pay the Chelsea Improvement rate, was summoned before Mr. Burrell, at Westminster. Mr. Bult argued that he was not bound to pay, because the 17th section of the Chelsea Improvement Act stated, "that it shall be lawful for them (the commissioners) to make a rate upon the occupiers of all messuages, &c., which at the time of passing this Act were by law liable to be rated to the repairs of the highways within the said limits," and neither his house nor any part of the street in which he resided was built at the time of the passing of the Act. He had come forward to oppose the claim from a sense of right, and complained that there were no gutters or gully-holes in his street to carry off the rain, that there was no road formed, that it was in a most filthy and unwholesome state, that his own and family's health had been much affected by exhalations from filthy matter, and that his three children had but recently recovered from fever, caused by the nuisances produced by the filthy condition of the street.—Mr. Bodkin, on the part of the commissioners, said that the construction put upon the section was monstrous. The section clearly intended to mean, not the identical buildings at that time in existence, but all that description of property which should subsequently be erected. The magistrate took the same view of it, and declared Mr. Bult liable to the rating.

**SIR HANS SLOANE'S MONUMENT.**—With reference to the recent remarks in *THE BUILDER*, on the monument to the memory of Sir Hans Sloane, which stands at the east corner of the old churchyard, Cheyne-walk, Chelsea, this monument, as well as the inscription in its present dilapidated condition, demands the attention and aid of the public, in order that it may be restored and saved from the ravages of time, so that the memento, erected with so much liberality to the memory of the scientific attainments, devoted to the use and benefit of the public, of so celebrated a character, may be handed down to posterity. At a time when other improvements were being effected in this neighbourhood, the churchwardens wrote to the family of the late Sir Hans Sloane, calling their attention to the dilapidated state of the monument, in the hope that they would cause the same to be repaired. The answer they received to his communication was, I believe, that the property had been dispersed, and that no funds remained in the hands of the trustees or executors, applicable thereto. The churchwardens, not having any funds which they can legally lay out in its repair, and the inhabitants also having already expended much upon the improvements, there remains but little probability that anything can be done to rescue it from decay and ultimate ruin, unless, by being brought before the public through the medium of your widely circulated journal, there may be found among the various scientific bodies of our country, and public spirited individuals, a sufficient number who may feel sufficiently interested in the matter so as to aid by a small subscription, the repairing and restoring the monument. J. PERRY, Chelsea.

N.B. The Worshipful Company of Apothecaries are the trustees for the public of the collection, at Chelsea, of Sir Hans Sloane's botanical specimens.

**LAVATORIES FOR THE BRITISH MUSEUM.**—Now that the "commissioners" have instructions to improve the arrangements of the Museum, it will be well for them to bear in mind the necessity of providing greater conveniences for those who frequent the library. A lavatory is rather a necessity, if only for the protection of valuable works from being soiled, than a luxury. The present arrangement of the conveniences for the gentlemen is very unsatisfactory, and in any alteration the ladies should be consulted.

**BIRMINGHAM WORKHOUSE COMPETITION.**—The guardians resolved that the report of the committee should not be received, but that the six selected plans should be submitted to the test of ballot. On the 21st the votes were taken, and the result was a majority of 10 for Mr. Hemming; the numbers being—Hemming, 36; Drury and Bateman, 26. The whole affair is very discreditable to the Board.

**PREVENTION OF CORROSION.**—According to the *Chemical Times*, the best means of preventing the corrosion of metals is to dip the articles first into very dilute nitric acid, to immerse them afterwards in linseed oil, and to allow the excess of oil to drain off. By this process metals are effectively preserved from rust or oxidation.

**NORMAN TOWER, BURY ST. EDMUNDS.**—The committee have reported to the subscribers that the restoration of the tower is completed. 3,100*l.* have been disbursed, and about 300*l.* remain to be paid.

**VERY BEING BUILDERS.**—I beg to inclose, says one correspondent, and seven others have done so in other words,—a specimen of estimating as exhibited on the 15th inst. at the offices of Mr. Lambert, for finishing fourteen 8-roomed houses, now in carcass, building outhouses, &c. There is evidently something very wrong in the system of contracting now followed by some men. One would think they were entirely ignorant of what they were doing, or grossly dishonest; one or the other is quite apparent.

H. Search	£5,420
R. Newport	5,026
T. Howard	4,982
Thos. Burton	4,951
J. Rivett	4,712
W. Higgs	4,647
R. and E. Curtis	4,484
W. Norris	4,397
J. Foot	4,340
W. Perry	4,285
A. Cripps	4,190
W. Blenkham	4,179
D. Bodger	4,094
J. Mullins	4,018
W. Loynes	4,000
E. Mares	3,985
J. T. Taylor	3,960
Walker and Soper	3,947
J. J. Billson	3,875
J. Raycrup	3,750
G. Bagg	3,500
J. Sutton	3,430
W. Pillbeam	3,298
D. Catlin	3,290
J. Greenwood	3,000
C. Lloyd	2,920
J. K. Vote	2,656
J. Vaughan	2,548
J. Pooley	2,175
J. Richards	1,999

**CONT OF THE SMALL-POX HOSPITAL.**—Sir: It seems very desirable for the sake of competitors, that you should print the tenders for the Small-pox Hospital: Mr. Daukes, architect:—

Pritchard	£19,930
Smith	19,410
G. A. Young	18,549
Lee and Son	18,300
Holland	17,699
Patrick	17,430
Grimsdell	17,085
Kelk	16,900
W. Cubitt and Co.	16,953
J. Locke and Co.	16,600
Myers	16,431
Messrs. Piper	15,938

These amounts are exclusive of the foundations and drains, which have been put in at an expense of 2,800*l.*—AN ARCHITECT WHO TRIES TO BE HONEST.

\*. We have received some letters commenting in strong terms on the conduct of both committee and architect, but are not disposed to insert them, except with the writers' names attached.

**A GOOD MOVEMENT IN THE SCHOOL OF DESIGN.**—At Somerset House an association of the students has just been formed, for the purpose of mutual improvement, the first meeting of which was held on Saturday, the 10th, in the large room at Somerset House, the use of which has been granted by the council. An introductory paper was read by Mr. D. W. Raimbach, the substance of which we shall give.

**EXPOSITION OF INVENTIONS.**—It is thought, with reason, that a free exposition of patented and registered inventions would be an advantage to the public, and at the same time, facilitate the object which manufacturers have in view, viz., making their inventions generally known, and it is intended to open an exposition of the kind at the Baker-street Bazaar. A manager and assistants will be appointed, for the purpose of explaining the use and advantage of each invention, and to effect sales.

**SHAPE IN RESPECT OF AREA.**—Having seen, some time since, in *THE BUILDER*, some questions as to the squaring of numbers, it occurred to me that it would be interesting to mention a fact relating to the areas of squares for buildings. A figure which has all its four sides equal, contains the greatest area within the same length of wall, viz.:—

Feet.	Feet.	Feet.
80	6400	and 320
60	3600	and 320
70	4900	and 320
50	2500	and 320

This may be useful to those concerned in building warehouses, &c., which case first called your obedient servant's attention to the fact.—R. B. GRANTHAM.

**WOODEN BARN FLOORS AND RATS.**—Barn floors may be made impervious to rats by the following cheap method:—Dig around the building that has its foundations in the ground (in contradistinction to those supported on stone or brick piers), a dry area, say 14 inches wide by 9 inches deep, pave the bottom with brick flats, the side farthest from the building to the outside surface of the building: as this is finished, fill in the area with the earth dug out. The rats will endeavour to make their entrance by burrowing, but they will invariably work themselves out at the surface, as they cannot effect their object, try how or where they will, and cunning as they are, they never commence burrowing away from the building, but close around it. This plan has never failed: rid yourself of the inside members and no outsiders can enter. The doorways may be similarly secured by carrying up a dwarf wall along the opening.—JOHN B. WATSON.

**IMPROVEMENT IN SCOTLAND.**—The writer of a paragraph relative to Dundee, which appeared in your paper of last week, under the signature of "One who has used his Olfactories," is entitled to the thanks of every well-wisher of Scotland. Aware of the high estimation in which *THE BUILDER* is held in Scotland, would you permit an admirer of that country to suggest, not only to the inhabitants of Dundee but to those of Scotland generally, that probably the most delicate and esteemed compliment they could pay to the Queen and Prince Albert, would be for the upper and middle classes in every parish throughout the country, by their example, advice, and assistance, to endeavour to effect an improvement as regards cleanliness in the habits of the lower classes. If each parish had a distinct society formed for the purpose of carrying out such improvements, great, doubtless, would be the benefits derived therefrom; and it would ere long become a brand and a disgrace to build houses without having the usual conveniences attached.—R. B.

**BREATHING ROOM FOR THE TOWER HAMLETS.**—Some eight years since I proposed (through the medium of the press), the removal of that disgusting, and very unwholesome nuisance, the Tower ditch or moat, and at the same time suggested that its site might, advantageously, be converted into a public garden or promenade. Shortly after I had the gratification of seeing my proposition partly acceded to. The ditch was drained, but instead of completing the above arrangement, the bed was merely levelled (and not raised as I intended), and is now used once or twice a